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INTERROGATION REPORT

THIS REPORT IS THE RESULT OF THE INTERROGATION ACTIVITY CONDUCTED BY THE NATIONAL INTERROGATION CENTER (NIC) UNDER THE JOINT AUSPICES OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION (CIO) AND THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF DETACHMENT 6, 6499TH SPECIAL ACTIVITIES GROUP (USAF).

COUNTRY : NORTH VIETNAM (NVN)
SOUTH VIETNAM (SVN)
Laos
NIC REPORT NO : 115/68
NIC CASE NO : FET

SUBJECT : Medical Supply of a NVA Unit during DATE OF REPORT: 26/1/68
Infiltration
NO. OF PAGES : 2

DATE OF INFO : 10 June 1967 to 8 December 1967
REF: NIC Report 114/68 (PIR)

DATE AND PLACE : 16 January 1968 (H - U)
OF ACQUISITION SAIGON, Vietnam

This report was collected on 16 January 1968 in the SAIGON/GIA DINH area .
Source is not available at the NIC for further exploitation.

SOURCE:

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SUMMARY

Upon arrival at BA Mountain, PHU CAT District, BINH DINH Province, SVN, the Company 61 unit and individual medical supply issue was nearly exhausted. Malaria was the most common disease. Over 40 percent of the 70-man company was affected. As food shortages became more serious, dysentery and beriberi increased. Troops complained over the lack of medical care. Cadres were unsuccessful in attempts to build up the morale of the troops. Many soldiers felt that they would die because of lack of food and medical supplies.

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1. Upon arriving in the BA Mountain area, PHU CAT District, BINH DINH Province, SVN, in early November 1967, Company 61 (total strength: 70 men) had nearly exhausted its medical supplies which had been issued prior to departure on 10 June 1967 at NGOC LIEN Village, NGOC LAC District, THANH HOA Province, NVN. The individual medical issue consisted of: 20 white quinine tablets, 2 bandages, and 20 water purification tablets. In addition, the company nurse had two or three small boxes of medicine.
2. No sicknesses were contracted until the infiltration group (designation unknown, total strength of 500 men) arrived in Laos. Malaria was the most commonly contracted disease. In Company 61, only a few (number unknown) came down with the disease. However, the incidence of disease increased sharply after the group entered SVN in QUANG NAM Province, and after Company 61 arrived in the BA Mountain area.
3. Individual medical issues were nearly gone, which was further complicated by spoilage. Quinine tablets had degenerated into powder form and were not used, since they were considered to be spoiled. Three out of every seven men were affected by malaria at any given time. Medical treatment consisted of two quinine tablets per day for two days for no matter how serious the malaria case. Troops who had exhausted their quinine issue reported to the company nurse who distributed the tablets. His supply was also nearly exhausted. No deaths were attributed to malaria.
4. The only preventive measures taken against malaria were the use of mosquito nets and the application of a very limited supply of mosquito repellant (NVN origin). The repellant was used sparingly over exposed skin areas. When applied, the repellant was found to be effective; however, upon arrival in SVN, the two one-centimeter size repellant ampules had been exhausted. No preventive tablets were issued.
5. As food shortages began to occur, the incidence of both dysentery and beriberi increased sharply. Treatment for beriberi consisted of two quinine tablets per day for two days. No improvement was found after treatment. No other measures were introduced to treat this disease. About 40 to 50 percent of the company suffered from this disease.
6. About four out of every seven squad members suffered from dysentery, [redacted]

[redacted] On one occasion when the squad had run out of salt, the squad members ate what turned out to be spoiled salted shrimp, and all contracted dysentery. The time lost from duty by this disease ranged from five to six days. Reoccurring attacks were common. Treatment consisted of four white tablets (type and origin unknown). Two or three tablets were given daily for the first few days. No other treatment was given because of lack of medical supplies. One death was attributed to dysentery. The man who died had a history of sicknesses since he began to infiltrate, suffering from dysentery, beriberi, and malaria. Prior to his death, he contracted a light case of malaria.
7. As the incidence of disease increased, complaints became common among the troops. Many [redacted] declared openly that with no medical supplies, they would die from lack of medicine. Attempts by cadres to boost their morale were unsuccessful. Cadres stated that there would continue to be medical shortages, that they did not know when they would be medically resupplied. However, in the meantime, everyone should try to keep healthy and free from disease by not drinking unboiled water and not sleeping without mosquito nets. [redacted]

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